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that it was one of the Columbidae. Our mountain ground dove is the *Geotrygon sylvatica* of Gosse. Its habits are solitary; it is of a thick, heavy form; seldom seen on the wing; feeds on the ground, and has a moaning coo.

The *Geotrygon sylvatica* varies in plumage from light bright tints to a sombre blending of bronze and claret-purple. It is drab colored on the head, varying from blue to dull yellow. The feathers fall into a kind of hood, and the plumage of the breast to the legs is edged so as to appear scaled. A scaled feathering prevails in all the under plumage. It resembles in this peculiarity the *Carpophaga* of Eastern Australia; a style of feathering rare in doves, but characterizing the Dodo. Our bird is such a lover of solitude that it is seldom seen; few know its habits, beyond the lonely moaning and the uncertain movements that render the tracing of it difficult in the forest.

Our bird is the largest of our doves; as big as a pullet. The bill has considerable curvature and fleshiness, large and strong. It would be easy, by studied exaggeration of the rounded heavy contour, with the pigeon beak, and the dumpy goose-shape, to make out the Dodo-form, between the figures of Bontius and Leguat. We have only to elevate it into its habitual stride, and we have the stateliness and grace in Leguat's description of the solitary bird of the Island of Rodrigo. That description is just our mountain-witch, grown to the size of a turkey.

Our bird is noticeable for its rasorial scratching, if that habit be correctly reported. It is said to take in occasionally such molluscous food as the snail, with the eggs of termites. Mr. Gosse's information relative to mollusks is very precise. He detected the snail among the contents of its craw. This is a great deviation from the pigeon character. Pigeon food only varies from grain by the occasional mixture of the young shoots of such succulent herbage as turnip tops.

Sir Hans Sloane has in his manuscript notes an observation made by L'Es-trange on the living Dodo. It is introduced as an annotation by Wilkins in Pickering's edition of Sir Thomas Brown's "Vulgar Errors." "About 1638 as I walked London streets I saw the picture of a strange fowle hong out upon a cloth, ———vas* and myselfe with one or two more Gent, in company went in to see it. It was kept in a chamber, and was a great fowle somewhat bigger than the largest Turkey Cock and so legged and footed, but stouter and thicker, and of a more erect shape, coloured before like the breast of a young cock Fisan (pheasant) and on the back of dunn or deare colour. The keeper called it a Dodo and in the ende of a chimney in the chamber there lay a heape of large pebblestones whereof hee gave it many in our sight, some as big as nutmegs."

Yours, &c.,

RICHARD HILL.

November 5th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-two members present.

Prof. E. D. Cope presented to the Academy specimens of four extinct species of Mammalia, which were discovered by Jas. T. Thomas, in the Miocene deposits of the Yorktown epoch in Charles Co., Maryland.

The first was a species of the genus *Eschrichtius*, to which the recent hump-back whale is allied, of a species not previously known. It was called *E. CEPHALUS* Cope. The remains preserved were a considerable portion of the muzzle, both rami of the mandible, several vertebrae, and a considerable number of pieces of the hand, with ulna, humerus, etc. Other specimens, previously presented to the Academy, probably belonging to the same species, were some cervical and dorsal vertebrae, portions of cranium and os petrosium

* The name is in part erased, perhaps it was Gervas, for Gervas Hollis, the antiquary. 1867.]

from Yorktown, Va., and os petrosum from Tarboro', N. Ca. The mandibular rami measured 9 ft. 4 in. and were referred to an individual 31 ft. long. They were compressed, and with a narrow superior ridge, without nutritive foramina. The hitherto known Miocene Whales—*Balaena prisca* and *B. palaeatlantica* of Leidy—founded on portions of the mandibular rami, were much less compressed, were furnished with numerous marginal nutritive foramina, and the *B. prisca* was without superior ridge. The anterior cervical vertebræ were transverse quadrate. The arms were much shorter relatively than the recent *M. longimana* and *M. osphyia* of the American coast. Mandible with a low coronoid process.

The second, named *RHABDOSTEUS LATIRADIX* Cope, was a peculiar genus near the Delphinidæ, allied to *Priscodelphinus* Leidy, and perhaps *Platanista* of the Ganges. Characteristic of it was a muzzle formed of the usual elements but entirely cylindrical, the alveolar series approximated underneath, and ceasing near the middle. Beyond this the muzzle was prolonged like a cylindrical beak of a sword fish, or *Coelorhynchus*, and probably much farther than the mandible. Alveolæ longitudinal fragmentary specimens of this muzzle had been found by the discoverer 2·5 feet in length.

Thirdly, a fragment of the muzzle, including the proximal portions of the maxillary bones, with molars, and the canine teeth of the *SQUALODON ATLANTICUS* (Leidy). As the Miocene representative of the larger species of the Eocene period, it was shown to possess a close affinity to the Miocene *Squalodon grateloupianus* (Gerv.) of Malta and France. The double serration of the molars and their deeply divided compressed fangs were features in which it differed from its congener.

SQUALODON MENTO Cope was characterized from four molar teeth, which were between two and three times as large as those belonging to the *Squalodon wymani* (*Phoca* of Leidy) with similar short incurved crowns, but much more rugose. One molar had a smooth compressed fang, which was little curved and with groove on each side. The fangs of the others were weathered, not grooved, curved and acute.

November 12th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-two members present.

The following was presented for publication :

An addition to the Vertebrate Fauna of the Miocene Period of the United States. By Edward D. Cope.

The death of Prof. Michael Faraday, correspondent, was announced.

Dr. Le Conte made remarks, illustrated by specimens, upon the tertiary coal-beds of New Mexico, in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains, and upon the cretaceous coal-beds of the Rio Grande Valley. Both regions were regarded by him as capable of supplying abundant fuel for railroads, metallurgic and manufacturing purposes. He also mentioned beds of lignite coal, in the vicinity of Denver, of great thickness—from 11 to 16 feet—free from impurities.

November 19th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-four members present.

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